A Brieſe

NARRATION

OF THE

Carriage and Succeſſe

OF THE

ENGLISH AFFAIRES,

in the hands of the

COMMISSIONERS

FOR

SCOTLAND.

SIR;

WHereas the love and wiſedome of *Parliament*, foreſaw that the Malignant humors of this Church and Kingdome, were very unlikely, if not impoſſible, to be removed without ſome *Northern* Phyſick; and their reſolution, and neceſſity had wrought through thoſe manifold difficulties

ficulties and oppoſitions which were continually made to the calling in their aſſiſtance; You remember they appointed Commiſſioners, Lords, and Commons, furniſhed with Inſtructions, to the better expediting ſo weighty an affaire, and joyned two Miniſters of good worth and ability to be aſſiſtant to them in any thing that might concerne the Eccleſiaſticall part of the Negotiation; who undertooke their journey from *London*, *Iuly* 20. and lay at *Graves-end* to 22. From thence came to *Yarmouth*, where they were ſtop'd two or three dayes by contrary winds, but were by Gods providence releaſed, *Auguſt* 1. and arrived at *Leith*, *Auguſt* 7. Where they were nobly and courteouſly received by the Earle of *Lindſey*, and Sir *Archibald Iohnſton*, who conveyed them from thence to *Edenburgh* that night, where they received all reſpect due to their perſons and employment; But a little time ſerved for complement, when a buſineſſe of no leſſe conſequence then the preſervation of Religion, and liberty in three Kingdomes was to bee propounded; They made therefore ſpeedy addreſſes to the Aſſembly, and convention of Eſtates, who reſpectively appointed Committees to treat with them of what they had in command from the *Parliament* of *England*; Our Commiſſioners, according to their Inſtructions, preſſed upon them a firme Union and ſpeedy aſſiſtance, a good leſſon taught us by ill maſters, the Papiſts and Prelates, who are incorporate to the danger of Proteſtant Religion and Civill Liberty: And though they omitted no time, yet when by Mr *Robert Meldrum* a faithfull Agent, they received the ſad letters from *England* of the ſurrender of *Briſtoll*, with the cau-

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ſes and conſequents, they thought fit to adde double diligence, and accordingly with more earneſtneſſe they applyed themſelves. The Aſſembly and Convention, equally ſympathizing that condition, thought the beſt meanes for the accompliſhing and expediting this union and aſſiſtance, to be a ſolemne mutuall Covenant into which both Nations ſhould enter; and therefore offered that one might be drawne by the mutuall approbation of the Engliſh Commiſſioners, and the Scottiſh Committees, which was accordingly done *Auguſt.* 15. Which though at firſt it ſeemed a hard morſell, yet it pleaſed God to frame the ſpirits of them that were employed, to that Chriſtian condeſcenſion and ſelfe-deniall, (which God uſually makes the foundation of every great work) that thoſe rubs were quickly removed and the forme agreed on that night, which ought not to be attributed to any ſlightneſſe or ſuddenneſſe in a matter of ſo great concernment, but to their diligence and apprehenſion of the preſent neceſſity of the buſineſſe. And let none wonder that this way of Chriſtian Aſſociation was pitched upon; which though at the firſt view, it ſpeaks delay, yet it really meanes expedition, in that that prudent Nation hath experience, that they ſhall be able, upon a mutuall conſent thereto, to doe more in a week toward the accompliſhment of our deſires, then in a month without it, as their experience in their late troubles made apparent; where God did miraculouſly bleſſe that Nation in this way. And further, it cannot be thought unfit that ſo religious a work ſhould have a religious foundation; nor unreaſonable, that when the thing to be undertaken is ſo full of difficulty and hazard, the undertakers ſhould

bee obliged in the moſt ſtrict and inviolable bands, eſpecially in this revolting and backſliding age: and our advantage, and the advantage of the Cauſe cannot be ſmall, thereby, conſidering that after this mutuall obligement, we have not only an aſſurance of a preſent auxiliary, but at all times of whatſoever the power and prudence of that Nation can contribute to the maintenance of Religion and Liberty. The Covenant being upon theſe or the like grounds agreed to, it was propounded to the Aſſembly by the Reverend Mr *Alexander Henderſon* the Moderator, who carried the buſineſſe of that day with ſingular diſcretion and affection; and after a little demurre caſt in by the Kings Commiſſioner, (which gave occaſion to the mention, and ſo to the deniall, of a negative voice to his Majeſty in that Aſſembly,) the Noblemen and Miniſters were required to give their reſolutions concerning it: and here I muſt beg excuſe, neither mine nor any pen is able to reach that abundant alacrity and Chriſtian affection wherewith their ſeverall votes were delivered for the affirmative, without any contradiction but what was mentioned. And though the thing it ſelfe, *ſtrictly*, the paſſing ſuch a Covenant, be of moment, yet I confeſſe the circumſtances of it wrought more upon me, even thoſe impreſſions which I hope were made by the ſame ſpirit that guided them; ſo that I ſhould not doubt to ſay, the ſpeciall hand of God was in the buſineſſe: and unleſſe we be wanting to our ſelves, I hope we may reap in joy what they ſowed in teares; and that the work of that day, though it may and muſt (as every great work in which God delights to be moſt ſeen) receive ſeveral checks & interruptions, wil not be quaſhd;

will

will reach *Spaine* and *Rome* it selfe in due time. And as I am certainly informed, by (a person whom, for honour sake, in regard of his faithfull industry in the cause of God I mention) Sir *Archibald Iohnston*, at the Convention of Estates in received the like unanimous and affectionate approbation that same might, who likewise backed it with the draught of a Proclamation to put the whole Kingdome in a posture of defence, and commanding them to provide themselves of Armes, and to be ready at the time and place appointed them. And thus this memorable 17 of *August* ended; on the 18. it was dispatched by a Messenger, to whom the Commissioners gave credite for *England*, and was brought hither, *Aug.* 25. and presented to the *Parliament*, *August* 26. And thus is your own businesse brought to your own doores; where I hope it will not long lie, though I cannot doubt but it will meet with manifold opposition, in regard that the Popish and Prelaticall faction, and men that are so deeply afraid of the Word of God and a Government according to it, know that though they may cheaply contemne English Votes and Vowes, which they see many among us who yet challange titles of honour, can dispence with, yet a Scottish Covenant carries strength and resolution with it, and hath already proved fatall to the Hierarchy. For my own part I will not dissemble my apprehensions in this businesse, and they are these; That though wee are extreame unhappy, that our Nation should have so much corruption as that by its naturall strength it could not work it out, and that so many among us should bee so industrious in making a grave for their own Religion and Liberty, which yet may prove their own, and this their Epitaph:

Hic jacent & jacent sine spe resurgendi Libertatis, tam Christianæ, quam Civilis.

Yet we are happy that we have met with friends, who so cordially resent our dangers and miseries, and may be so fit a counterpoise to the *French*, *Spanyards*, *Walloons*, *Geball*, *Ammon* and *Amalek*, that are received amongst us, and confederate against us. Let not any mans thoughts murmure when I say Cordiall resentment; I confesse, and doe this publike penance, that I went with a prejudice, and expected the fullfilling of my apprehensions as much as my desires, but finde my selfe happily deceived; for though They do, as every wise man will, take in their own interest, and after conscience hath had its due and supreame work, make use of their best prudence for the compassing lawfull ends; yet I am perswaded that God and Religion, and true brotherly affection to this Nation, have the upper hand in their thoughts and undertakings for this businesse: And God hath seemed to frame them as those fit instruments which shall begin to execute the vengeance of the Lord, and the vengeance of his Temple. And let no man prejudice himselfe or them, and say, instead of helpers we shall have Masters, and they will have too strong an influence into our Religion and Liberty: When as it will be found in that offered Covenant, that they intend not the least confusion betwixt the Kingdomes and Churches, though the neerest conjunction; but to maintain the respective liberties, and priviledges of both Nations; and presse nothing but what our selves have propounded. The word of God, as the

the rule of our and their reformation: And here I can not omit a passage full of meeknesse and wisdome, that fell from a considerable man among them for piety and Learning, Let *Scotland* help to reform *England*, and » *England*, *Scotland*: God hath edged the spirits of the » Scottish Nation more against Popery, Prelacie and » Superstition, then the English, let us help to rid you » of them, and mutually receive from you that assistance » which may be requisite to advancing the purity, and » power of godlinesse among us both. »

It need not be doubted but if we forsake not our own mercy, God hath stretched out a hand to us to draw us out of the mire both of corruption & confusion in which we are; let every one therefore, in his place, study to promote this promising union, wch it is hoped may in time be an example and encouragement to other Protestant Churches to joyne them thereto, to the inlargement and establishment of the Kingdome of Christ, and the disappointment and destruction of his, and our Enemies. God hath begun by them, *Hee is our Rock, and his way is perfect:* If therefore any proposition bee made to you concerning money for the levying and conducting these Forces, let us not keep it to perish with us: I beleeve the desire will bee modest, and enforced by that necessitie which we have bden constrained to bring upon them by the expence they have bin put to in the maintenance of the *Irish* Army, to which we are so deeply ingaged: I hope I may safely say, they seek not yours, but you and their own. Since therefore they that are reasonably well skilled in computation of our English affairs, judge it impossible, without a Miracle, to accomplish a Reformation, scarcely a preservation, without

out them; let us all ſtrive with earneſtneſſe and expedition to promote this preſent hopefull ſervice; leſt hereafter, upon the return of our calamitie, which in this ſea of miſery that overſpreads us, is like againe to flow upon us, it be ſaid of us, Wee had a Price in our hands. And ſo I beſeech God, who hath hitherto appeared in this buſineſſe, to goe on to order and expedite it to the glory of his Name, the eſtabliſhment, reformation, and propagation of true Religion, the preſervation and improvement of liberty; that we may live a quiet and a peaceable life, in all godlineſſe and honeſty.

FINIS.